

specially adapted for the manufacture of the product and the use of the product. See 37 CFR 1.499(b)(3). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's characterization of groups I-XI as separate inventions is inconsistent with rule 499. The Examiner's Group I should include those claims now designated as well as claims to a method of using the compounds and claims to a process for preparing the compounds.

It is further respectfully submitted that claims 26-29 should be joined in Examiner's group IV with claims 13 and 24 because claims 26-29 are subclaims within the broader scope of claim 13. Thus, Examiner's groups IV, V, VI and VII should be examined together.


Responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect for prosecution on the merits, the compound and composition claims 1-8, 10, 17 and 35 (Examiner's group I), the claims to methods of using the compounds for the treatment of conditions or diseases mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2, which include claims 13, 24 and 26-29 (Examiner's groups IV, V, VI and VII), and the process of claim 9 (Examiner's group II).

Applicants understand that upon allowance of the compound claims, examination of the remaining method of use claims and process claims will proceed. Accordingly, no claims are canceled at this time.

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 483-8222, to discuss this case further if desired.

Date: ²⁸~~29~~ September, 2001
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Respectfully submitted,


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